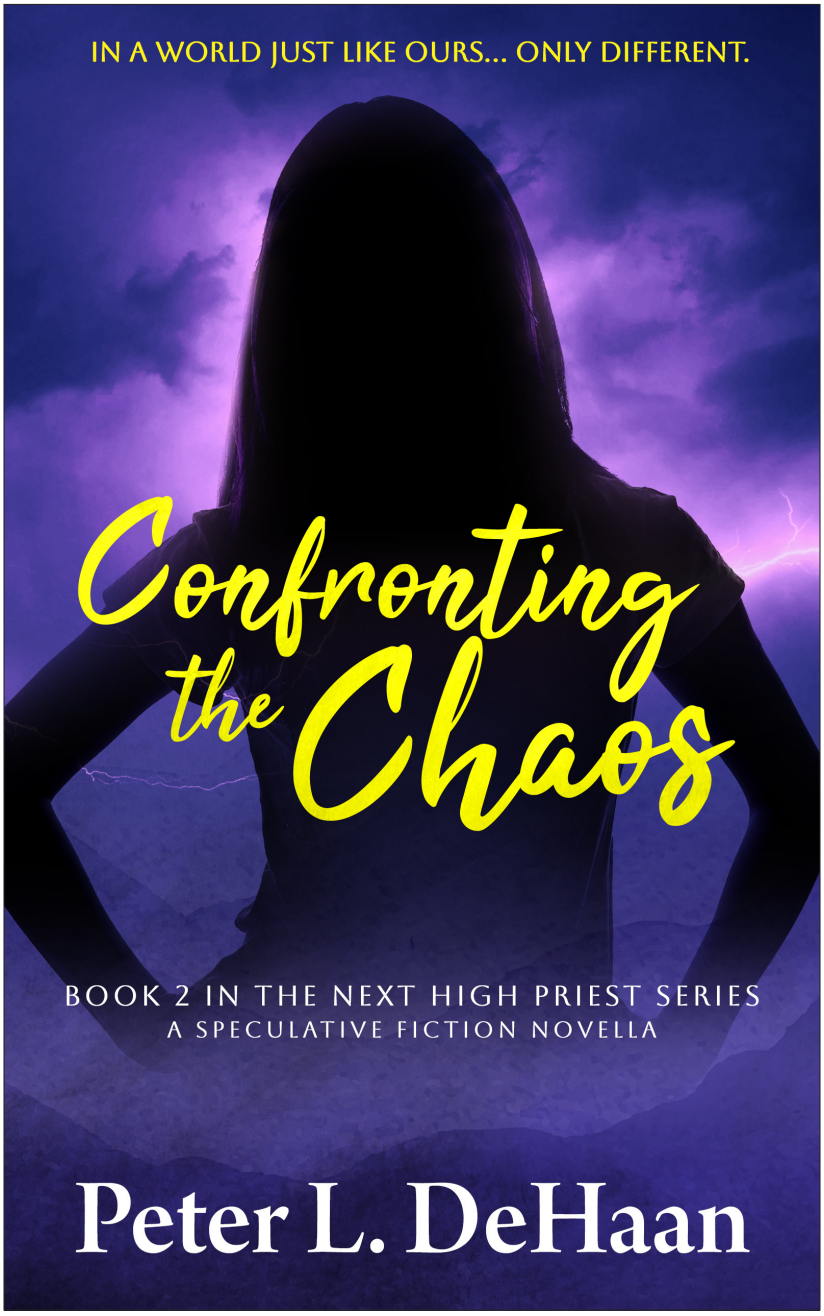


Discussion Guide for

Confronting the Chaos

by Peter L. DeHaan

For homeschool and co-op classes

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How to Use This Guide

Please finish the book first, or finish each chapter group before discussing it. The questions mention later events in the story.

Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit your meeting. There are no right or wrong answers—share what stood out to you. Save the whole-book questions for the end of your discussion.

Chapters 1–2: Emma Wakes Up in a New World

Emma regains consciousness in the Temple Palace as the new High Priestess and learns she cannot return to her old life.

1. What surprises Emma most when she wakes up, and how does her family react?
2. Why does Emma feel both groggy and achy, and what does she believe protected her?
3. How does Emma respond when the Chief of Priests tells her she must stay at the palace?
4. What does Emma's hunger and need for a shower show about her after the trauma she experienced?
5. How does the Chief's black spiritual presence differ from the colors Emma sees in her family?
6. In what ways does Emma already show she wants to trust the Sovereign instead of the Chief?

Chapters 3–8: The Robe, a Warning, and the First Service

Emma gets fitted for her robe, faces a threatening note, removes the ghostly makeup, and leads her first public service while learning to stand firm.

1. Why does Emma dislike the palace and the robe so much?
2. How does Jennifer help Emma after the brick is thrown, and what does that show about friendship?
3. What does Emma do with the ghostly makeup, and why is that choice important?
4. What happens when Emma lowers her hood during the service, and why does it matter?
5. How does Emma respond to the Chief's anger after the service?
6. How does Emma show she is beginning to trust the Sovereign more than the Chief's rules?

Chapters 9–11: A First Kiss and a Hard Day at School

Emma shares the Divine Spirit with Chloe, tries for a first kiss, and returns to a school where students avoid her and the principal warns her.

1. Why does Chloe's reaction to receiving the Divine Spirit encourage Emma?
2. How does the almost-kiss with Joshua affect their friendship?
3. What does Emma discover about the colors people show in the spiritual realm?
4. How do the other students react to Emma at school, and how does that make her feel?
5. How does Emma respond when Principal Johnson suggests she leave school?
6. Why does the Sovereign tell Emma the trials will make her stronger?
7. How does Emma choose to trust the Sovereign even when school feels unsafe?

Chapter 12: Holding Hands and a Hard Decision

Emma and Joshua hold hands on the walk home, and then her parents tell her she must live at the Temple Palace.

1. What does holding hands with Joshua at the end of the day show about their growing friendship?
2. Why does Emma feel torn between her old life and her new role?
3. How do her parents' concerns connect to trusting God when decisions are hard?
4. What does Emma decide to do about living at the palace, and why?

Chapters 13–14: Saying Goodbye and Going "Home"

Emma shares one last family dinner, finds a threat hidden in a bouquet of roses, and leaves home.

1. Why does Emma want one more dinner at home?
2. How does Joshua get along with Emma's dad, and why does that matter?
3. What threat does the unsigned note on the roses contain?
4. What does Emma mean when she says, "I'm not sure if I'm leaving home or going home"?
5. How does the family's last hug show their love and trust in the Sovereign?
6. How does Emma show she is still choosing to trust the Sovereign through this change?

Chapters 15–17: Protection, Colors, and Answered Prayer

Emma learns about spiritual colors, prays for protection, and sees the Sovereign answer through police help.

1. What does Gabe explain about black, white, and other spiritual colors?
2. How does Emma respond when the cars try to ram the limo?
3. What does the Sovereign do when Emma prays for protection?
4. Why does Emma feel peace after praying even before the police arrive?
5. How does Gabe's talk about colors help Emma understand who to trust?
6. What does this section teach about asking God for help and then doing what we can?

Chapters 18–20: New Allies and Standing Strong

Emma gets to know Junior, plays matchmaker, and faces escalating threats at her locker.

1. What does Junior's orange aura tell Emma about him?
2. Why does the Chief assign Junior to Emma, and how does Junior treat her differently?
3. How does Emma help Ashley and Topher, and why does she enjoy it?
4. What does Emma do when she sees the noose on her locker?
5. What does the missing locker door and the words inside show about the danger Emma faces?
6. How does Emma's group of friends (her "disciples") respond to the threats?
7. How does Emma continue to trust the Sovereign when everything feels out of control?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How does Emma change from the first chapter to the last?
2. What does it mean to be a "true friend" in this story, and who shows that best?
3. How does Emma learn to trust the Sovereign more each time danger appears?
4. Which scene made you feel most hopeful, and why?
5. How do the spiritual colors help Emma know who to trust?
6. What would you have done differently if you were in Emma's place at school?
7. How does the story show that those who trust the Sovereign are protected even when things look scary?
8. Which character grew the most in their faith, and what helped them?
9. What does the book teach about standing up for what is right even when others disagree?
10. How can we apply Emma's habit of praying and then acting to our own lives?
11. What part of the story would you most like to talk about with a friend?
12. How does the Sovereign's promise to never leave Emma encourage you?
13. If you could give Emma one piece of advice, what would it be?

14. What do you think Emma will face next, and how will she respond?

15. How has this story helped you want to trust God more this week?

About the Author

Peter L. DeHaan is an adult who dreams of being a teenager. When he's not contemplating grown-up thoughts, his mind retreats to the domain of invented worlds with his loyal and most real, yet still imaginary, friends.

His first published adventures come to life in The Next High Priest Series—a faith-friendly speculative fiction adventure in a world just like ours . . . only different.

Read the Rest of The Next High Priest Series

Confronting the Chaos is book 2 of The Next High Priest Series. The full series:

1. Seeking the Sovereign
2. Confronting the Chaos
3. **Dueling the Devil**
4. Reforming the Religion
5. Freeing the Prisoners
6. Fighting the Fanatics
7. Perfecting the Priesthood
8. Pursuing the Politicians
9. Restoring the Repentant

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